in the above-captioned matter, before Hearing Officer Paul Higginbotham, taken before me, Lindy L. Meyer, Jr., a Notary Public in and for the State of Indiana, County of Shelby, at Ivy Tech Community College, Gary Campus, Multipurpose Room, 1440 East 35th Avenue, Gary, Indiana, on Thursday, September 15, 2011 at 6:00 o'clock p.m.

(317) 848-0088

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## APPEARANCES: ON BEHALF OF IDEM: Paul Higginbotham, Hearing Officer Bruno Pigott Richard Hamblin Nicole Gardner Stan Rigney Amber Kent Finkelstein Catherine Hess SPEAKERS PRESENT: Kevin Doyle Patrick Gorman

6:00 o'clock p.m. September 15, 2011

THE HEARING OFFICER: Folks, it's 6:00 o'clock, so if you can find a seat, we can start here. Thank you. First I'd like to thank everybody for coming out this evening to this public hearing on the ArcelorMittal permit renewals as well as the issuance of two permits to ArcelorMittal Steel.

Before I start, I'd first like to swear in the court reporter tonight, so Lindy, if you could please stand and raise your right hand.

(Reporter sworn.)

(Discussion off the record.)

THE HEARING OFFICER: Sorry about that, folks. I'll try to speak up, and I know Bruno can be plenty loud, so -- he yells at me plenty at the office, so he'll be fine as well.

To get started next, I would also like to do introductions with folks that came up with me from Indianapolis IDEM office. First, Bruno Pigott's the Assistance Commissioner, Office of Water Quality. He came up with us tonight and

he'll be doing to PowerPoint presentation for us on these permits.

In addition to that, Stan Rigney is the Industrial Permits Section Chief.

Sitting next to Stan is Nikki Gardener, she's one of the permit writers for the permits.

Then Richard Hamblin is also a permit writer.

Out front is Catherine Hess, who's the Section Chief of our Permit Administration Section; she came up to help out this evening as well.

And we also have Amber Finkelstein; she's with our Media Office, here to help answer any questions if there's any media folks here this evening. Feel free to get with Amber after this and we can address any questions you may have.

In addition, my name's Paul Higginbotham.

I'm the Branch Chief of the Wastewater Permits

Branch of the Office of Water Quality.

As you guys came in, we have the sign-in sheet out front, and what we'll do is utilize that sign-in sheet to make sure that we get final

permit actions out to anyone that's on that sign-in sheet, so if you left your address or your e-mail on there, we can contact you with the final permitting actions that we do with these permits.

In addition, we have speaker cards that were out there, so if anybody would like to get up and actually give an oral comment this evening, they can do that, and I'll use those cards to call people up after we go through our PowerPoint presentation.

And we'll be taking written comments as well, so if anybody brought written comments this evening, we'll be taking those tonight, if you want to give them to any of the IDEM staff.

They'll become part of the record of this hearing.

The purpose of this hearing is to -- is for the renewal of the ArcelorMittal East permit, renewal of the ArcelorMittal West permit, as well as the issuance of two new permits, the ArcelorMittal Long Carbon and the ArcelorMittal Central Waste Treatment permits.

And Bruno, as I said, will be going through this PowerPoint presentation and will give more details about what the permits are, why we're doing four permits and not just two renewals, and some of the additional issues that are being addressed with these updated permits.

The permits themselves were public -these draft permits were public noticed on
August 15th, and with a 45-day comment period.
That comment period ends -- we'll be taking
comments up through September 30th, at which time
we'll be preparing the final permitting actions
on all four permits.

Tonight's setup is just that, it's a hearing. We're here to listen, to give the people, the public, the opportunity to give any comments they have or to ask any questions that will be placed into the record. We want to hear from you with the concerns or questions.

We will not be responding to comments and questions tonight, but we will be responding in writing to any of all of these comments or questions we receive as part of the final

permitting actions that we take on these four permits.

So, with that being said, I'll turn it over to Bruno to go through the presentation, then I'll come back up and do the actual calling people up that want to comment on the permit.

MR. PIGOTT: Thanks, Paul.

My name's Bruno Pigott. I work in the Office of Water Quality at the Department of Environmental Management.

Paul ran through some of the purposes of the meeting -- hearing tonight. What I want to do, because we're talking about four separate wastewater permits, is talk a little bit first about the background on these type of permits, in general terms, so that people in the room who may not be familiar with this permit -- and we call it the NPDES permit or wastewater permit -- to get a better understanding of the background on them.

A brief presentation on the permit process itself. I want to explain why we're issuing four permits tonight -- not tonight. We're having a

hearing on it tonight, but we anticipate issuing four permits. I want to talk about the issues associated with these four permits.

One of the goals tonight was to also make sure that you folks walked out of here with Citizen Summaries of all four of these permits so that you can take something home that isn't a big legal document, that is the permit, but helps to summarize it in more plain English language, because one of the things we happen to do very poorly is talk in English --

(Laughter.)

MR. PIGOTT: -- at our Department.

We talk in Bureaucratese, and we think we know what we're talking about, but oftentimes I get people looking at me like "What are you talking about?" I think this Citizen Summary should help translate our language into English and help you understand a little better what we're doing and why we're doing it.

And we also have information about how to get copies of the permit, because you may, after looking at this Citizen Summary, also want to

take a look at the permit to get a more in-depth look at each of these permits. And as Paul said, we're going to take comments from folks who are interested in providing comments.

Paul, when was this thing public noticed, these four permits?

THE HEARING OFFICER: August 15th.

MR. PIGOTT: August 15th.

so, some of you may have already gone to it, read the four permits, and have comments tonight, and if so, great; we're here to listen to them. And then we'll talk about next steps for the permits to wrap up the meeting.

So, if it's okay with you guys, I'm going to start with a picture of the facility. This is -- I've got a lot of reasons for putting this up, because, first of all, there are four permits, and the question you may ask is, "Well, what -- where do these four permits cover?" And the answer to that is the four permits, we call them different things.

One is called ArcelorMittal Central Waste, and that's right here. Second is called

ArcelorMittal West; that deals with this area. A third is ArcelorMittal East; that's this area.

And then the fourth is ArcelorMittal Long Carbon. Four permits, two facilities, ArcelorMittal West, ArcelorMittal East.

That's something that you ought to know just to start. We've got two en -- two facilities here, and we're issuing four permits. In the past, we issued one permit for each facility, but we're proposing to issue four instead of two with these permits, and I'll go into why.

But first I want to talk a little bit about the NPDES permits, what we call NPDES permits. It's wastewater permits. Any entity, business, municipality, person that wants to discharge to any kind of pipe, water to waters of the state that contains pollutants must obtain what we call a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit; and we, the Department of Environmental Management, are charged through U.S. EPA with issuing those permits.

So, the reason we're issuing permits here

is because these two facilities have, and have been permitted for, discharges from those facilities to waters, and we're renewing permits for those two facilities and breaking them up a little bit into four, but that's required under the law. If you're going to discharge any pollutants to a water of the United States, you must obtain an NPDES permit, and that's what these permits are.

What's in an NPDES permit? As I mentioned, we have four NPDES permits. This is just one of them. This is ArcelorMittal Indiana Harbor East. It's got a permit number on it. The permit numbers are really important. It helps you distinguish between one permit and another. This one is IN, and then five 0's, and 94. Each of the different permits have different permits numbers.

When you look at a permit, you may ask,
"Well, what do I want to look for? What do I
want to look in?" A permit is easy to look
through once you know what to look for. They're
still pretty daunting documents, but it helps to

know that the first thing you're going to see with most permits is the cover page.

This is the cover page, page two of this permit, because it's a big enough permit that we included an index. It should help people get through the permit. But the first page is really the cover page.

And then there's what we call Part 1 of
the permit, and Part 1 is just after the cover
page, and Part 1 contains a whole bunch of
information, but some of the stuff that is in the
Part 1 of a permit is really critical, and that
is: What pollutants are being proposed to
discharge from this facility at different pipes?
And what are the regulations on the discharge or
pollutants from those pipes?

So, each of the permits has a limitation on the pollutants that can be discharged from every outfall, and they're listed in little charts here. They tell you what pollutant it is, how often they have to sample, what levels they have to meet, a whole host of information. It's really critical if you want to know what's coming

out of each outfall.

Those limits that are placed on it, the controls on how much is allowed to be discharged of what particular pollutant, are either technology based limits or water quality based effluent limits, whichever are more stringent.

And what we call technology based limits are often limits that are derived using guidelines that the Federal Government sets up through U.S. EPA that says, "Well, for kind of industry they're likely to have these kind of pollutants, and therefore, if they do, these are the kind of limits that -- these are the guidelines for establishing limits for them.

And many of these permits have what we call internal outfalls. Those are outfalls that discharge from one part of the facility but don't discharge to waters of the state yet, but go to a pipe that leads out to like, say, the Indiana Harbor Ship Canal or some other thing. So, we have internal outfalls and external outfalls, and there are -- sometimes we'll put limits on the internal outfalls and external outfalls of these

things.

But when you look at a permit, it's Part 1 of the permit that helps you see what the limits are, the monitoring frequencies, the different kind of monitoring and reporting frequencies and requirements, as well as any special conditions.

In these type of facilities, steel mills, you'll see conditions governing the discharge of water at a certain temperature. In our language, we call that 316(a). It just refers to the section the Clean Water Act. But that governs --our 316(a) requirements govern the temperature at -- that can be discharged from any facility.

And the special conditions in the permit often revolve around temperature and the water intake structures as well, and those would be in the special conditions areas. Some of the intake stuff require studies. Any study that a facility's required to conduct is in the permit, and it's often in the special conditions area. So, you'll have Part 1 of the permit, which contains all of these things.

And then you can go to Part 2 of the

permit, which contains what we call standard conditions. It's the duty to reports, it's the -- what some people might say the legal stuff that has to be put into a permit to ensure that the agency can take actions in the event of certain occurrences at the facility. Important stuff, but it's a part of every permit. They're standard conditions because they're included in just about every wastewater permit that we issue.

So, that's the way it's laid out, so if or when you look at a permit, I'd advise you to look at the cover page, but go to Part 1 of the permit to get an idea of what kind of pollutants that they're being regulated for out of what -- we call them outfalls, but pipes that discharge to waters of the state. Monitoring requirements are in that Part 1, and special conditions, and then Part 2 you'll find the standard language we include in a lot of permits. That's the permit. That's what it looks like.

One of the key things that's also accompanying a permit but isn't the permit itself is what we call the fact sheet. A fact sheet's

are really good document. If I were to advise anyone about how to look at permits, I'd say, "If you don't know anything about the way we do business, look at that Citizen Summary first."

It will help you understand what we're doing in English language terms.

Secondly, get a look at that fact sheet, because the fact sheet helps explain why we did what we did in our NPDES permits, and it's a really useful document. It gives some of the reasoning behind the limitations we put in permits, and it gives you a description of the activities that are covered, the types of discharges, and any summary of the basis of different requirements. That's the fact sheet, and I think it's a really important thing to take a look at in the permits.

So, now I'd like to talk a little bit about these permits -- actually the facilities. ArcelorMittal East and West, from our permitting history, the two facilities had two separate permits, as I mentioned before. ArcelorMittal West, which was, if you'll look at the map, this

area here, that permit -- that's what the old ArcelorMittal -- that's the ArcelorMittal West facility, in general terms; this is ArcelorMittal East.

The ArcelorMittal west permit was issued in 1986. It was the last time this agency issued that permit, a long time ago. They're supposed to be renewed every five years. Shame on us. We didn't. We're getting there now. We hope to issue and renew the permit. It was LTD Steel at that time.

But that permit, the west facility, was issued in 1986. The East facility, on the east side of that picture, was issued in 1996 as Inland Steel, and then we did various modifications to the permit over the years, 1990 and '91 for West, and 2001 for East.

And we finally got around to getting out to reissue these permits. We've been working on other permits all of the time as well. We've been reissuing the U.S. Steel permit, the U.S. Midwest permit, ArcelorMittal Burns Harbor.

There's a large number of permits that we've been

working to reissue.

Both of these permits now, those facilities, were public noticed on August -- August 15th of 2011. But we're issuing four permits. So, we're breaking them down from -- in this way: ArcelorMittal East, the picture on the map, you saw the east side of the picture, that is now two permits.

The first permit is ArcelorMittal Indiana
Harbor Long Carbon, and there's the permit
number, so anybody who sees that will know. It's
also labeled quite clearly on the permit. And
then there's ArcelorMittal East facility, and
ArcelorMittal West is now broken down to
ArcelorMittal West and ArcelorMittal Indiana
Harbor Central Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The question is: Why are we issuing four permits instead of two for these two facilities?

One reason is that these permits better reflect the business operations of these steel mills, and we could foresee a time when steel mills have to sell off operations or move facilities around, and to issue four permits allows us for an easier

transference process. Administratively, it's a lot easier on us to break them into four pieces.

And despite the fact we've broken them down into four permits, these two facilities have no new discharges, so it's not that they're renewing new pollutants coming out. It's just that we're breaking them down for administrative reasons into four permits to allow for transference of portions of a facility if they're sold off. It just makes it easier from an administrative standpoint.

But the question might then be asked,

"Well, why are we doing a public notice of all of
these permits at the same time?" Well, the
answer is on the slide, but it's really all right
here. I mean this is the answer. Look at this.

This is really what we're permitting.

To understand this permit, which is
ArcelorMittal Long Carbon, and its impact on the
environment, to understand ArcelorMittal East and
its impact on the environment, ArcelorMittal West
or ArcelorMittal Central and its impact on the
environment, you can look at it alone, but you

really don't understand the impact until you consider it holistically, because these two facilities and these four permits have discharge points all along here on the Indiana Harbor Canal and the turnaround here.

And so, to consider them separately is to miss a part of the picture. To public notice them together is to allow the public to look at this whole picture holistically, and literally, looking at the picture, it seems to make sense to me.

And I think that's what we tried to explain here. They all discharge to the same water bodies -- the ship canal, the harbor, Lake Michigan -- and they provide that opportunity to look at this stuff holistically. It's a lot of paper, but it's all the same impact on the environment, so we want you guys to take a look at it and you understand, "Aha, this is the whole picture."

Okay. So, what I want to talk about now is the discharges to waters by permit. So, each of these permits have discharges. Where are they

discharging to? ArcelorMittal Indiana Harbor

Long Carbon discharges to the harbor ship canal.

I showed you that on the map. It was the blue

line.

ArcelorMittal East discharges to the ship canal, to the turning basin -- that's the wider portion -- and to the Grand Cal. ArcelorMittal West and the Central Wastewater Treatment Plant, that's the west side, it's the ArcelorMittal West facility, discharge -- west discharges to the ship canal, to Indiana Harbor, and to Lake Michigan in one part, and Indiana Harbor Central Wastewater Treatment Plant discharges to the ship canal. So, they all have an impact in the same area, they all discharge to the same area.

So, the challenge for us in talking about these permits is: How do you talk about four permits at one time? And what we decided was the most effective way to talk about these four permits and take a look at the common issues.

What are the common issues with these four permits? Because they are two facilities, so they have a lot of commonalities, and they're

both steel mills.

So, what I want to do right now is talk about specific pollutants that are in these permits, something we call the 301(g) Variance. Storm water requirements that are contained in the permits, temperature requirements that are in the permit, that means what temperature should be -- what's the temperature that the discharges should occur at, and water intake structure requirements. The facilities take in water as well as discharge it, and there are requirements on what -- how they take in that water.

And then something that we talk about a lot and often don't do a lot of about, but -- in terms of rulemaking -- but it's our antidegradation requirements and what we're doing regarding antidegradation. The first thing I want to talk about is specific pollutants. When we put this out for public notice, we received some comment from some folks about hexavalent chrome, so I want to talk a little bit about hexavalent chrome.

Now, hexavalent chrome is known to be

present at process operations of the discharge of the Central Wastewater Treatment Plant and ArcelorMittal East Outfall 14. There's a small amount of excess chromate solution which is used and collected and disposed of off-site when a sufficient amount is available to move off-site. So, it isn't actually discharged from these facilities.

Hexavalent chrome is not discharged from the pipes in the facilities. These permits contain actually a prohibition on the discharge of hexavalent chrome at these facilities, and it's -- but what you might not find in the permit is a limitation on the discharge, because it's prohibited from being discharged, because the facilities actually don't discharge it; they haul off any water that contains hexavalent chrome.

You talk about lead and zinc. There are different requirements with each of these different permits for lead and zinc, depending on the outfall. When we issue permits, we take a look at each and every point that discharges waters to the state.

We evaluate what pollutants are being discharged and we determine whether or not there's some reasonable potential to have pollutants go into the water that would be harmful to the environment.

Some of our limitations that we place on those pollutants are developed using technology limits, and they are imposed further up in the pipe, in what we call internal outfalls, and some are imposed at the end of the outfall, where it discharges into the water.

Where water quality based limits -- there are two kinds, technology based limits and water quality based limits. We take a look at them both. Whichever the more stringent limit is in place we'll put into permits. So, where water quality based limits are more stringent than technology based limits, water quality based limits are placed at a final outfall.

Mercury. Mercury's been a big issue for years in facilities all around the State of Indiana. Mercury limits have been established at these facilities in all four permits. In the

Indiana Harbor Long Carbon, there's -- there are mercury limits on Outfall 001, Indiana Harbor East at three different outfalls, Indiana Harbor West at four different outfalls, and at the Central Wastewater Treatment Plant, their main outfall, there are mercury limits. The first time mercury limits have been imposed at this facility, so this facility has tough mercury limits in the draft permit.

Ammonia and phenols. ArcelorMittal East has regulated -- has ammonia regulated through a 30 -- what we call a 301(g) Variance at Internal Outfall 613, and an ammonia variance has been continued at a previously approved level, but for ArcelorMittal East we did not continue a phenols variance.

ArcelorMittal West, ammonia and phenols are regulated through a 301(g) Variance at three different outfalls at previously approved levels. And you may wonder, you say, "Well, what the heck is a 301(g) Variance?" Well, here's the definition of a 301(g) variance. It refers, again, to Section 301(g) of the Clean Water Act,

and it allows for a variance.

A variance is a different limit on the amount of pollutants that can be discharged, less stringent, for sure, than the limit that would otherwise be put in place from the applicable best available technology requirements through development of alternative limits, what we call PMEL's, but you can just call them alternative limits.

And 301(g) variances can granted for a variety of things, but for these permits, the main things that we focused on, that are focused on, are ammonia and phenols. But you have to meet certain strict federally imposed conditions. So, for these four permits, the 301(g) variances affect ArcelorMittal East, ArcelorMittal West, and they're relevant for ammonia and phenols.

Well, I just mentioned that to qualify for these different -- these alternative limits on effluent discharges, you have to meet certain strict criteria, and if a facility meets certain strict criteria, they are automatically granted these alternative limits.

It doesn't mean they can discharge phenols or ammonia all day long at unlimited levels; it means that alternative limits are place, and those alternative limits must be put in place in an amount that will not result in pollutant discharges that would bioaccumulate, they wouldn't persist in the environment, they couldn't cause acute or chronic toxicity, and they cannot interfere with the maintenance of water quality.

So, the limits are put in place through this process of creating alternative limits that are protective of our water quality. And you must meet all of the conditions that are up here in this screen in order to qualify for this.

Now, in the past, ArcelorMittal West had a variance for ammonia and phenols over three different outfalls. They submitted an application to renew this variance, and certain things had changed over time, and because of the changes, we had to reallocate the limitations on three of the outfalls.

So, we continue to have limitations on

ammonia and phenols, and those will result in compliance with water quality standards, and they are arranged a little bit differently than they were in the permit, but they still apply across outfalls.

effluent data for Internal Outfall 613, we looked at the reporting requirements and looked at the results from the reports that had been submitted to us, and we found out that there's a treatment system in place at that facility currently that does remove phenols, so that we recommended that we continued the different alternative limits for ammonia, but did not renew the phenol variance or alternative limits for ArcelorMittal East.

One of the big things in a facility like this oftentimes is concerns about storm water. Storm water hits the ground, it runs off, and it carries with it pollutants to waters. We have taken a look at our storm water requirements not only in other permits across the state, but also here in this one, and have included new storm water requirements, new storm water requirements

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that look at the specific facility and the specific work they're doing at the facility and tailored the requirements to the facility and the kinds of product that they leave out, the kinds of work they're doing.

And we've included what we call nonnumeric or best management practice storm water limits in the permit, and we were developing these requirements in, through the use of the EPA, what we call multi-sector general permit, which is, in some ways, the gold standard by EPA of storm water requirements. So, we've included new storm water requirements in this permit that will help reduce storm water runoff.

Thermal requirements. I mentioned that there were some special conditions in permits, and that temperature and intake waters are two areas where there are special conditions imposed.

Temperature is limited on discharges under IDEM rules and under the Clean Water Act, and we have taken a look at the discharges from this facility and we've determined by looking at past discharges that ArcelorMittal's facilities do not

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have a potential to exceed the temperature

requirements to maintain water quality.

temperature limits, but they continue to require monitoring so we can continue to monitoring -monitor the temperature of the discharge so that if it changes, we can impose the requirements in the future. They apply to all four permits.

We require the monitoring to take place both where they draw in the water and where they discharge the water. We call it the intake and the effluent. And there's new reporting requirements in the permit for ArcelorMittal Central Wastewater Treatment Plant and the West permits.

So, temperature requirements, while it deals with where we draw water into the facility and where it pumps out, really a lot of it focuses on what's discharged. The other end where you draw water in, has a different set of requirements. We call them 316(b) requirements.

The 316(b) is just another reference to the Clean Water Act. It really is designed to take a look at the -- what is drawn into a facility when it draws water in. The whole idea is to protect fish populations that my be sucked in, chewed up and spit out from a facility, to put it crudely.

And so, there's a part of the Clean Water Act that requires an examination to make sure that people do certain things to help reduce the animal population being sucked into intake structures. These requirements are contained in all four of the permits that are being public noticed.

We look a look at these intake structures and we did an evaluation of the structures and said, "Are these facilities using the best technology available to help ensure that they don't unavoidably suck in fish and chew them up and spit them out?" We did take a look at those facilities. We took a look at their intake structures and we determined that they were.

And we based our decision regarding the intake structures and whether they were doing the best technology available based on document

review, information provided by ArcelorMittal, as well as going out and taking a look.

So, some of the reasons that the intake structures are okay are that there's a substantial reduction in water intake demand by the facility; there's a substantial reduction in the number of pumps that are running throughout the facility simultaneously, which helps reduce the intake of water.

Now, just because we did that evaluation doesn't mean that that's all that we're required to do. We also require the facility to, as part of its permit renewal, conduct a series of studies about these facilities, to take a look at exactly what fish are being what we call impinged and entrained, and that's literally sucked in and chewed up, during the term of their permit.

And there's a whole explanation for the studies that must be conducted by the facility in the fact sheet of the permit, again, a good reason to take a look at the fact sheet for the permit, to understand what we're doing and why we're doing it.

some people take a lock at toxic -- what we hear as toxic release inventory stuff, and raise concerns to our agency. The toxic release inventory is a whole inventory of pollutants at facilities. Facilities are required to fill out documentation and submit it, or estimated numbers of pollutants.

And when you look at the TRI data out there and then look at our permits, you might mistakenly believe that, well, there's a huge problem, specifically in this per -- in these permits, with chromium or hexavalent chrome -- is it hexavalent chrome or total chrome -- in the permit, because toxic release inventory data seems to conflict with our own analysis of what's going on.

But you have to understand a little bit about the toxic release inventory to understand why the two things don't marry up very well.

This toxic release inventory is a collection of data. It's really useful. It's meant -- the whole origin of collecting this data was to help people around facilities get some idea of

estimates of pollutants out there.

But it's not as precise as the data collection that we use to determine what kinds of limitations to put on permits. The data, for example, that are collected through the toxic release inventory are estimates. They're annual summaries of expected emissions. They don't provide any indication of projected effluent quality, which is critical for our evaluation of whether water quality standards will be met.

The data are summarized by parameters that are defined differently than we define some parameters in our analysis of water quality standards, and they're gathered differently. Literally the sampling is different, the -- some of the TRI information are estimates, and it's not a good tool to use to analyze the effect of a facility on -- or potential effect of a facility -- on water quality.

It's got its uses. It's really important for citizens, but it's not the data we use to evaluate a facility's impact on water quality using actual data. So, I just want to make sure

people understand, there is a difference between TRI information and information we use to determine whether or not to put certain limits in permits.

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And our information is a little more specific, the sampling that are required to evaluate that stuff is required to be representative sampling, it's required to be collected more frequently, and it's more precise.

Antidegradation. I talked to my colleagues here before, and I said, "Geez, how am I going to explain this thing called antidegradation?" And here's the only way I can think of it: There are certain -- there are water bodies all across the state where, for certain pollutants, let's say, just to throw one out, E. Coli.

The water in that water body is better than the water quality that is required, the minimum water quality levels that is required in that water body. So, it's a little better, a little higher quality for each and every -- for certain pollutant parameters.

And what the antidegradation process is, in simple terms, is really to not degrade unless there's a good social or economic reason for doing so.

So, the antidegradation process is a process that forces a facility, when it has a new discharge or an increased discharge of a pollutant, to analyze whether or not there's a social or economic reason for increasing their discharge and degrading the quality of water down to what we require for water quality standards.

The whole incentive is to keep the waters cleaner than just meeting our water quality standards. So, when we look at permits, are going out to reissue permits, we look at them and ask our first question, which is: Are these facilities looking to have new discharges or increased discharges of pollutants?

If there are no increases in discharges of pollutants or no new pollutants that are being discharged, then there's a -- no need for the facility to conduct a demonstration that they need to degrade the environment for those new

pollutants, and that's what antidegradation's about.

In these four permits we conducted that analysis. Are there new pollutants that are being discharged? No. Are there increases in the levels of the pollutants that are being discharged? No.

And there are new limits on pollutants, there are new limits, but there are not new pollutants discharged, and the reason there are new limits on pollutants but there aren't new pollutants being discharged is because, in some cases, these permits had pollutants that were. being discharged before that weren't regulated.

Now we're regulating. Now we are putting limits on them. It's not that they have new pollutants being added to the water. It's the same thing -- they're going to decrease the level of those pollutants.

Therefore, this -- none of these permits, any of the four permits, allow for a new or increased pollutant loading to waters of the state, and that's the analysis we have to conduct

to determine whether or not a facility has to go through a process of justifying a degradation.

And we found in all four of these permits that that was not the case. There was no need for an antidegradation demonstration. We did our review on all four permits, and I just ran through the bottom part of that slide.

Okay. Overall, there's lots of changes to these permits from the old permits, and when you have an old permit that was issued in 1986, it's likely there are going to be more changes. So, here's a list: New mercury limits; more stringent limits for several pollutants including oil and grease, total residual chlorine, zinc, lead, copper, silver, naphthalene, TCE, cadmium, total chromium, nickel, total cyanide at specific outfalls in these different permits.

We thought about listing each outfall and which one had them, but it could go on for pages and pages. The main thing is to highlight for you folks that there are new limits, there are new more stringent limits, at outfalls throughout these permits.

And there are new reporting requirements as well, and there's new chronic and acute biomonitoring at specific outfalls that -- biomonitoring's a fancy word, but it really means collecting some pollution and testing it, giving some very sensitive aquatic fish species, and finding out whether or not that discharge to that water is likely to -- with the combination of pollutants -- is likely to be toxic, because you don't want to have toxicity. So, we require

toxicity studies or a whole effluent toxicity

And then we are requiring new studies for what I call the 316(b) stuff, impingement and entrainment, and we have new, more stringent storm water requirements that should be familiar to folks who really look at these permits because we imposed them on the U.S. Steel permit facility at Gary Works, at Indiana Harbor -- I mean Burns Harbor -- and U.S. Midwest. And there are new reporting requirements for temperature, so there's a whole host of changes that make these permits all much more stringent than the past

testing.

1 permits.

Now, in terms of next steps, what are we doing? Well, tonight is our public hearing. The comment period -- we wanted to conduct the public hearing so that you could have an understanding of what we see in the permit. You can comment tonight.

But you can also go home and take a look at it some more yourself, after hearing us, and decide to provide written comments. If you do, you can send them to us up to September 30th, 2011. Make sure your comments are postmarked September 30th or e-mailed September 30th.

Do we accept e-mailed comments?

THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes, we do.

MS. READ: 4:00, 4:00 o'clock?

MR. PIGOTT: Is it 4:00 o'clock? Is

it 12:00 midnight?

THE HEARING OFFICER: It's --

MR. PIGOTT: We're fine, as long as it's September 30th, 2011.

MS. READ: What if it's mailed on September 30th?

MR. PIGOTT: That's fine. If it's 1 2 mailed September 30th, 2011, we'll still accept 3 the comments if they come in October 2nd. know, it's just that the postmark must be 4 5 September 30th, and that's all we're asking. We've had this permit out for a total of 45 days 6 7 at the end of September 30th, so we recognize 8 that it's not the average single permit, there's 9 a lot of paper to look through, and we want to 10 provide people time to comment.

And if you really want to look at the permits, we thought we'd save some paper by not printing off all four permits for everybody in the room. There's a Web site you can go to, and you can view it on your screen or you can print it off.

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Is it also available at the library?

THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes.

THE HEARING OFFICER: I think it's --

Which library?

MS. READ: Gary?

MR. PIGOTT:

MR. PIGOTT: Should be Gary.

THE HEARING OFFICER: There's two

libraries, Gary and --1 2 MS. FINKELSTEIN: Gary, and at the 3 Lake County Health Department. THE HEARING OFFICER: 4 And at the 5 Department, at our Northwest Office. 6 MS. READ: IDEM? 7 MS. FINKELSTEIN: And the Northwest Office. 8 9 THE HEARING OFFICER: UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You can also 10 download it as a PDF on your computer. 11 There you go, you can 12 MR. PIGOTT: download it as a PDF on your computer as well. 13 So, once we get all of the comments in, we 14 15 will take a look at them, and we'll say, "Okay. 16 Are people providing us with information that is 17 directly applicable to the permit, you know, this permit parameter should be less stringent or more 18 stringent, you forgot about this pollutant, " and 19 we'll evaluate those comments. "You need more 20 monitoring or something in a certain place." 21 22 Please write us and let us know, tell us

tonight, and we'll take a look at those comments.

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We'll respond to them as part of our package of issuance of the permit, and we will make changes where we think those comments are relevant and where we think we need to make changes to ensure that the permit is defensible.

Now, I do want to say that these permits are big permits. They're important permits for our environment, and because they're so important, we're not the only ones involved in these permits. We've been working with U.S. EPA for quite some time on these permits, and we've talked to them about all of the requirements that exist in these permits.

They have written us a letter, after reviewing the permits, saying that they believe these permits are justifiable, and they basically said, "These are the requirements you're going to have in your permits." We believe that EPA is satisfied with these permits, but they understand that valuable public comments could be received during the comment period.

And so, we -- both organizations, both IDEM and EPA, will look at the public comments

after the public comment period and determine whether or not sufficient changes must be made to the permits to ensure that they meet Clean Water Act requirements.

1.8

After we're done with all of that, we're going to issue the permits. My boss is telling me he wants these permits issued by the end of the year, so I'm telling him he's got to get these permits issued by the end of the year, he goes and tells him that he's got to get the permits issued by the end of the year, and those guys are the guys that do the work.

So, that's what's going to happen. We expect to act expeditiously once comments come in, evaluate whether changes need to be made to the permits, make them where they're necessary, and then issue the permits.

I think under any circumstances, if you look at this list, these permits are more stringent than the past permits. I think they are protective of water quality, and I'm pretty proud of the work our people do to protect water quality and issue decent permits.

I'm done, so it's his turn to run the public hearing part, and you guys are probably tired of hearing me anyway, so thanks for you your time.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Bruno.

All right. The one thing I forgot to mention at the beginning, as folks come up, we have a -- and Lindy, I can turn that mic off, too, but folks should just stand up here if they want to give public comment at tonight's hearing. I just ask that you give your name, you spell your name, and if you're with a group or organization, I just ask that you also say what group or organization you're representing.

And I don't know if anybody else has filled out a speaker card, and if you haven't but you still want to after we go through the first couple of folks that have filled out a card, if you can just raise your hand and we can call -- or Amber has some blank cards back there, so if you want to fill out a card so we'll have that information, feel free to do so.

With that, I guess the first person I'll call to give comment is Kevin Doyle.

MR. DOYLE: Doyle. Okay. Can you hear me? My name's Kevin Doyle, and I'm the manager of environmental at the ArcelorMittal steel-making facility in East Chicago, Indiana.

I'd like to first thank IDEM and the staff that worked on the draft NPDES permit renewals for their diligence and perseverance. It's a tough and complex job dealing with all of the regulatory and facility-specific issues, but ultimately issuing these permits is the most appropriate way to manage and address those many issues. We truly appreciate your efforts.

The issuance of a valid, current NPDES permits is very important to both ArcelorMittal and the community. The NPDES permits help ensure that progress continues in a way that not only reduces environmental impact, but also ensures viability of operations while meeting enhanced standards.

For ArcelorMittal, valid and current permits ensure continued economic viability and

operational certainty. For the community, valid and current permits ensure a good quality of life with the protection of our water resources as well as the continued economic viability of these facilities.

ArcelorMittal received this public notice of the draft permits on August 17th, 2011, and we are now in the process of evaluating the contents of all four permits. This is a comprehensive and time-consuming endeavor, and our review is still underway. ArcelorMittal will submit detailed comments on the draft permits to IDEM as part of the public comment process.

ArcelorMittal recognizes that making steel has an impact on the environment. As an industry leader, it is our responsibility to set an example for improving the sustainability of our products both by reducing our environmental impact and enhancing our product's environmental performance. Through focused compliance, continuous improvement and innovation, we can advance environmental stewardship for the enjoyment of future generations.

It is important to recognize that significant improvements in water quality have occurred in the Calumet -- Grand Calumet River, the Indiana Harbor Ship Canal and Lake Michigan in recent decades. Data compiled by IDEM for the past ten years demonstrates this accomplishment.

ArcelorMittal will continue to do its part in maintaining and enhancing these historical water quality improvements. With all this in mind, ArcelorMittal will evaluate IDEM's four draft permits and develop recommendations and suggestions to IDEM consistent with our core values and in a manner that will aid or operations in achieving superior environmental performance.

Thank you very much for your attention and your -- all of your efforts.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thanks, Kevin.

MR. DOYLE: Thank you.

THE HEARING OFFICER: The next speaker I have is Patrick Gorman.

MR. GORMAN: Good evening. My name is Patrick Gorman, G o r m a n. I'm the

facilitator for the Indiana Steel Environmental Group. The Indiana Steel Environmental Group is a coalition of Indiana steel companies established to focus on environmental matters of concern to its members.

The Indiana Steel Environmental Group consists of membership from ArcelorMittal USA, ArcelorMittal Indiana Harbor, United States Steel Gary Works, United States Steel Midwest Plant, ArcelorMittal Burns Harbor, and Nucor Steel Crawfordsville. Together, these companies operate facilities in Indiana that produce over 18 million tons of steel annually and directly employ over 10,000 people.

In addition, it is estimated that an additional 100,000 people are employed by other firms that provide services to these facilities.

As a result, these facilities provide significant contribution to both state and national economy.

These companies operate facilities that require NPDES discharge permits or industrial pretreatment discharge permits. For years,

Indiana has not reissued NPDES discharge permits

for major industries when they've expired. As a result, Indiana has had a large number of expired NPDES permits that were administratively extended.

Over the past seven years, the Indiana

Department of Environmental Management has worked to reduce the number of administratively extended permits in Indiana, and has eliminated the backlog of expired permits. The Indiana Steel Environmental Group strongly supports Indiana's goal to reduce the backlog of these expired permits that have been administratively extended.

The Indiana Steel Environmental Group strongly believes the NPDES permitting process should be carried out in full accordance with the established provisions contained in the Clean Water Act and Indiana's Administrative Code, not more, not less.

The Clean Water Act provides an established framework for issuing permits that have been incorporated within Indiana's Administrative Code through significant public review, comment, and EPA's final approval that

this Code contains at least all of the required elements mandated by the Clean Water Act.

It is totally inappropriate to have an established and approved regulatory mechanism for issuing permits and then to selectively abandon that process based on public emotion or the perception of a few.

The ground rules developed for the permitting process were established many years ago, based on sound science, were open for public review and discussion, and received EPA's approval before they could be implemented. These rules must now continue to be followed.

In summary, the Indiana Steel
Environmental Group urges U.S. EPA to support the
process of states issuing timely NPDES permits
that are protective of human health and the
environment under the Clean Water Act, with
limits that are developed and supported by sound
science. When these permits are properly issued,
they are protective of human health and the
environment, and are in everyone's best interest.

Thank you for your consideration of these

comments. 2 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, 3 Patrick. That was the last speaker card that I 4 I don't know if anybody else would like to 5 б speak this evening. 7 MS. READ: I've just got some 8 questions. I don't know if you can answer them 9 or not, but --10 THE HEARING OFFICER: Charlotte, you 11 can provide the questions and get them into the record, but we won't be responding tonight to --12 MS. READ: Okay. 13 THE HEARING OFFICER: -- questions. 14 15 MS. READ: Okay. THE HEARING OFFICER: But we will be, 16 17 as I mentioned, in writing responding to all questions and comments raised. 18 So, does anyone else? 19 20 (No response.) THE HEARING OFFICER: I'm also going 21 to try -- if I can't get that tomorrow, it'll 22 23 definitely be up Monday, a copy of the PowerPoint

will be at that same Web site that was given tonight. A copy of this PowerPoint will be up on the Web at the latest by Monday, so I'll work on getting that done as well.

Again, I encourage folks to provide written comments to these permits, as it's a key part of the process that we do. We take them seriously, and we do want to have, the permits that are out there, that address all of the legal requirements in the Clean Water Act as well as any state regulations.

I thank everybody for coming out tonight and wish everybody a safe trip home, and with that, I draw this public hearing to a conclusion.

Thank you.

Thereupon, the proceedings of September 15, 2011 were concluded at 6:58 o'clock p.m.

# CERTIFICATE

2 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 6

I, Lindy L. Meyer, Jr., the undersigned Court Reporter and Notary Public residing in the City of Shelbyville, Shelby County, Indiana, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the proceedings taken by me on Thursday, September 15, 2011 in this matter and transcribed by me.

\_\_\_

Lindy L. Meyer, Jr.,

Notary Public in and for the State of Indiana.

My Commission expires October 27, 2016.

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